

Appln. No. 10/782,145
Amendment dated July 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed April 20, 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) A portable deck system for use with conventional recreational vehicles and fifth wheel campers having an entry door above ground level, the system comprising:

a platform assembly having a top surface positionable adjacent to a threshold of the entry door, ~~said platform assembly providing a horizontal space for a user external to the entry door; and~~

~~an access means operationally coupleable to said platform assembly, said access means providing a vertical transition between said platform assembly and ground level;~~

wherein said platform assembly includes:

a support frame assembly comprising a plurality of lateral extents and a plurality of longitudinal extents connecting the plurality of lateral extents; and

a plurality of leg members for providing vertical support to said support frame assembly, each of said leg members being pivotally coupled to said support frame assembly, each one of said plurality of leg members; and

a plurality of decking members removably mounted on said support frame assembly for forming said top surface of said platform assembly;

wherein said support frame assembly includes a first portion and a second portion, each of said first and second portions including at least one of said longitudinal extents and a plurality of said lateral extents, said plurality of said lateral extents of said first portion being removably coupleable to said plurality of said lateral extents of said second portion; and

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wherein each of said leg members is mounted on one of said lateral extents and is pivotable into a substantially parallel orientation to said lateral extent.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein said platform assembly further comprises:~~

~~a plurality of decking members, each one of said plurality of decking members having a top portion forming said top surface of said platform assembly;~~

~~a horizontal support frame assembly providing a horizontal support surface to each one of said plurality of decking members; and~~

~~a plurality of leg members, each one of said leg members being operationally coupleable to said horizontal support frame assembly, each one of said plurality of leg members providing vertical support to said horizontal support frame assembly~~

additionally comprising an access means operationally coupleable to said platform assembly, said access means providing a vertical transition between said platform assembly and ground level.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[[2]]]~~ 1, wherein each one of said plurality of leg members is ~~hingeably coupled to said horizontal support frame assembly to facilitate folding of said platform assembly for storage and transportation~~ movable between a storage position in which each of said leg members is movable between a storage position in which said leg member is positioned substantially parallel to the lateral extent and a support position in which said leg member is positioned substantially perpendicular to said lateral extent.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[[2]]]~~ 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of leg members is telescopic for adjusting a length of said at least one leg member.

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5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[[2]]] 1, wherein ~~said horizontal support frame assembly further comprises a first portion and a second portion said first portion being selectively coupleable to said second portion for use supporting said plurality of decking members, said first portion being of said support frame assembly is~~ selectively separable from said second portion of said support frame assembly to facilitate storage and transport of said horizontal support frame assembly.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[[2]]] 1, wherein each one of said plurality of leg members further comprises a base portion coupled to a distal end of an associated one of said plurality of leg members, said base portion providing an enlarged surface area for contacting the ground and inhibiting said associated one of said plurality of leg members from sinking below ground level.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[[1]]] 2, wherein said access means further comprises a stair assembly.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said stair assembly further comprises:

a stair frame assembly providing a plurality of incremental vertical supports between ground level and said platform assembly; and

a plurality of stair treads, each one of said stair treads being coupleable to an associated one of said plurality of incremental vertical supports.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said stair frame assembly being selectively coupleable to said platform assembly to facilitate access between said platform assembly and ground level, said stair frame assembly being selectively separable from said platform assembly to facilitate storage and transportation of said access means.

10. (Cancelled)

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11. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a railing assembly having at least one handrail portion and at least two vertical stanchions, said at least one handrail portion being positioned between said at least two vertical stanchions, each one of said at least two vertical stanchions being coupleable to said platform assembly.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) A portable deck system for use with conventional recreational vehicles and fifth wheel campers having an entry door above ground level, the system comprising:

a platform assembly having a top surface positionable adjacent to a threshold of the entry door, said platform assembly providing a horizontal space for a user external to the entry door;

a stair assembly operationally coupleable to said platform assembly, said stair assembly providing a vertical transition between said platform assembly and ground level;

said platform assembly including a plurality of decking members, a first support frame assembly and a second support frame assembly;

said first support assembly being selectively coupleable to said second support assembly to support said plurality of decking members, said first support assembly being selectively separable from said second support assembly to facilitate storage and transport of said platform assembly;

said platform assembly further comprising a trio of leg members, each one of said trio of leg member being hinged to said first support assembly, each one of said trio of leg members being telescopic to adjust an overall height of said leg member;

said platform assembly further comprising a second trio of leg members, each one of said second trio of leg members being hinged to said second support assembly, each one of said second trio of leg members being telescopic to adjust an overall height of said leg member;

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each one of said plurality of decking members being selectively coupleable to an associated one of said first support assembly and said second support assembly;

wherein said stair assembly further comprises:

a stair frame assembly providing a plurality of incremental vertical supports between ground level and said platform assembly;

a plurality of stair treads, each one of said stair treads being coupleable to an associated one of said plurality of incremental vertical supports;

said stair frame assembly being selectively coupleable to said platform assembly to facilitate access between said platform assembly and ground level, said stair frame assembly being selectively separable from said platform assembly to facilitate storage and transportation of said access means;

a railing assembly having at least one handrail portion and at least two vertical stanchions, said at least one handrail portion being positioned between said at least two vertical stanchions, each one of said at least two vertical stanchions being coupleable to said platform assembly.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising:

said first support frame assembly comprising a first tubular horizontal member having a first lateral extent, a second lateral extent, a third lateral extent, and a longitudinal extent, said longitudinal extent extending between said first lateral extent and said second lateral extent, said third lateral extent being positioned between said first lateral extent and said second lateral extent, said third lateral extent being coupled to a medial portion of said longitudinal extent, said first tubular horizontal member being substantially E-shaped;

said second support frame assembly comprising a second tubular horizontal member having a fourth lateral extent, a fifth lateral extent, a sixth lateral extent, and a second longitudinal extent, said second

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longitudinal extent extending between said fourth lateral extent and said fifth lateral extent, said sixth lateral extent being positioned between said fourth lateral extent and said fifth lateral extent, said sixth lateral extent being coupled to a medial portion of said second longitudinal extent, said second tubular horizontal member being substantially E-shaped.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said platform assembly further comprises:

a trio of lateral extent splice members, each one of said trio of lateral extent splice members having a first end fixedly coupled to a distal end of an associated one of said first lateral extent, second lateral extent, and third lateral extent, each one of said trio of lateral extent splice members having a second end with an aperture extending therethrough;

each one of said fourth lateral extent, fifth lateral extent, and sixth lateral extent having a distal end with a mating aperture extending therethrough;

said second end of each one of said trio of lateral extent splice members being slideably receivable within said distal end of an associated one of said fourth lateral extent, fifth lateral extent, and sixth lateral extent;

said aperture extending through each one of said second ends of said trio of lateral extent splice members being alignable with an associated one of said mating aperture of said fourth lateral extent, fifth lateral extent, and sixth lateral extent; and

a trio of pin members, each one of said pin members being positionable through an associated pair of an aperture and a mating aperture whereby said first support frame assembly is coupled to said second support frame assembly.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising:

each one of said lateral extents and longitudinal extents of said first support frame assembly and said second support frame assembly having a

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generally square cross-section facilitating identification of said first and second support assemblies as part of said platform assembly;

said at least one handrail portion and said at least two vertical stanchions each having a generally round cross-section facilitating identification of said handrail and stanchion assemblies as part of said railing assembly.

17. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising a securing means for selectively coupling said platform assembly to said RV to inhibit movement of said platform assembly relative to said RV.

18. (Currently Amended) A portable deck system for use with conventional recreational vehicles and fifth wheel campers having an entry door above ground level, the system comprising:

a platform assembly having a top surface positionable adjacent to a threshold of the entry door, said platform assembly providing a horizontal space for a user external to the entry door;

a stair assembly operationally coupleable to said platform assembly, said stair assembly providing a vertical transition between said platform assembly and ground level;

said platform assembly including a plurality of decking members, a first support frame assembly and a second support frame assembly;

said first support assembly being selectively coupleable to said second support assembly to support said plurality of decking members, said first support assembly being selectively separable from said second support assembly to facilitate storage and transport of said platform assembly;

said platform assembly further comprising a pair of leg members, each one of said pair of leg member being hinged to said first support assembly, each one of said pair of leg members being telescopic to adjust an overall height of said leg member;

said platform assembly further comprising a second pair of leg members, each one of said second pair of leg members being hinged to said

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second support assembly; each one of said second pair of leg members being telescopic to adjust an overall height of said leg member;

each one of said plurality of decking members being selectively coupleable to an associated one of said first support assembly and said second support assembly;

wherein said stair assembly further comprises:

a stair frame assembly providing a plurality of incremental vertical supports between ground level and said platform assembly;

a plurality of stair treads, each one of said stair treads being coupleable to an associated one of said plurality of incremental vertical supports;

said stair frame assembly being selectively coupleable to said platform assembly to facilitate access between said platform assembly and ground level, said stair frame assembly being selectively separable from said platform assembly to facilitate storage and transportation of said access means;

a railing assembly having at least one handrail portion and at least two vertical stanchions, said at least one handrail portion being positioned between said at least two vertical stanchions, each one of said at least two vertical stanchions being coupleable to said platform assembly;

wherein said platform assembly further comprises:

a trio of lateral extent splice members, each one of said trio of lateral extent splice members having a first end fixedly coupled to a distal end of an associated one of said first lateral extent, second lateral extent, and third lateral extent, each one of said trio of lateral extent splice members having a second end with an aperture extending therethrough;

each one of said fourth lateral extent, fifth lateral extent, and sixth lateral extent having a distal end with a mating aperture extending therethrough;

said second end of each one of said trio of lateral extent splice

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members being slideably receivable within said distal end of an associated one of said fourth lateral extent, fifth lateral extent, and sixth lateral extent;

said aperture extending through each one of said second ends of said trio of lateral extent splice members being alignable with an associated one of said mating aperture of said fourth lateral extent, fifth lateral extent, and sixth lateral extent; and

a trio of pin members, each one of said pin members being positionable through an associated pair of an aperture and a mating aperture whereby said first support frame assembly is coupled to said second support frame assembly.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[[19]]] 18, further comprising:

each one of said lateral extents and longitudinal extents of said first support frame assembly and said second support frame assembly having a generally square cross-section facilitating identification of said first and second support assemblies as part of said platform assembly;

said at least one handrail portion and said at least two vertical stanchions each having a generally round cross-section facilitating identification of said handrail and stanchion assemblies as part of said railing assembly; and

a securing means for selectively coupling said platform assembly to said RV to inhibit movement of said platform assembly relative to said RV.

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21. (New) The system of claim 1, additionally comprising an access means operationally coupleable to said platform assembly, said access means providing a vertical transition between said platform assembly and ground level;

wherein each one of said plurality of leg members is movable between a storage position in which each of said leg members is movable between a storage position in which said leg member is positioned substantially parallel to the lateral extent and a support position in which said leg member is positioned substantially perpendicular to said lateral extent;

wherein at least one of said plurality of leg members is telescopic for adjusting a length of said at least one leg member;

wherein said first portion of said support frame assembly is selectively separable from said second portion of said support frame assembly to facilitate storage and transport of said horizontal support frame assembly;

wherein each one of said plurality of leg members further comprises a base portion coupled to a distal end of an associated one of said plurality of leg members, said base portion providing an enlarged surface area for contacting the ground and inhibiting said associated one of said plurality of leg members from sinking below ground level;

wherein said access means further comprises a stair assembly;

wherein said stair assembly further comprises:

a stair frame assembly providing a plurality of incremental vertical supports between ground level and said platform assembly;
and

a plurality of stair treads, each one of said stair treads being coupleable to an associated one of said plurality of incremental vertical supports;

wherein said stair frame assembly being selectively coupleable to said platform assembly to facilitate access between said platform assembly and ground level, said stair frame assembly being selectively separable from

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said platform assembly to facilitate storage and transportation of said access means; and

a railing assembly having at least one handrail portion and at least two vertical stanchions, said at least one handrail portion being positioned between said at least two vertical stanchions, each one of said at least two vertical stanchions being coupleable to said platform assembly.